

Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

President: Joe Vergara KA9ZPA
Vice Pres: Keith Coburn K9PHI
Secretary: Bob Dales WB9AYB
Treasurer: Mac McCarty KV9K
Repeater Trustee: David Julian WB9YDG



WB9YIG/R
146.835

The Spark Gap

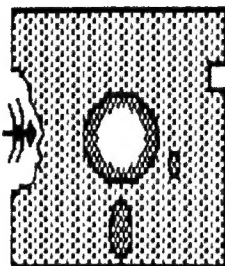
MARCH 1992



Events For March

8 Hamfest in Indianapolis
21 MARC Meeting 8:00 AM
21 Testing at Nashville
21 Balloon Launch at
Franklin H.S. 7:00

See you Saturday!



DID YOU
SURVIVE
Michelangelo?

CHANGES IN THE VE TESTING PROGRAM

This summer and fall the Question Pool Committee will be reviewing all questions which might appear in the future Novice and Tech exams. The new No-Code Tech license has proven to be very popular and has created a great increase in the number of Hams. The FCC intended to abolish the Novice class license but the Ham community objected so strongly that it was retained. However, this made demands on the Pool Committee who now has to consider an extra pool of questions. Another change proposed is to discontinue Novice testing by other than regular VE testing teams. This proposal has come about because of testing irregularities by Hams helping their friends! Present plans are for these changes to take place in January of 1993.

IS THIS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER?

Due to the per-member cost of postage this will be the last letter for members who have not paid their dues. However, copies will be available at the regular club meeting. Wouldn't this be a good time to get your 92 dues paid? You can mail them to Mid-State ARC at PO Box 836 Franklin, In. 46131.

Those of us who have computers now know the birthday of Michelangelo! This is important TRIVIA! The recent virus scare was quite a topic of concern and fear among computer owners who store great amounts of data on their hard disks! Several anti-virus programs were available and many were used during the days prior to March 6th when the virus was supposed to attack. The virus was discovered and removed on many machines resulting in a data loss much less than the experts had expected. Now the same experts are warning of a new virus due on March 13th called the "Jerusalem" that strikes on Friday the 13th! Computer owners who swap disks or download data from a bulletin board are advised to invest in a good anti-virus utility! There are more than 500 different viruses out there!

NEW CLUB MEMBERS

We would like to welcome three new members to the club: Louis Rodenbeck WE9MI of Mooresville, Randy Shake KC9LC of Greenwood who is an Accounting Mgr for Federal Mogul, and Mike Holland N9NTQ of Whiteland who is a computer operations supervisor for Farm Bureau Insurance. Welcome aboard, gentlemen!

RELAX THE "NO BUSINESS" RULE?

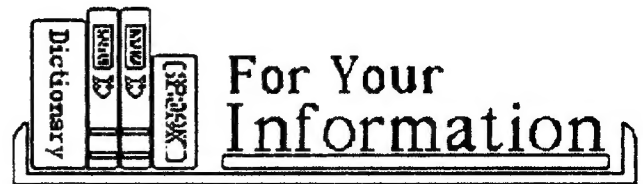
The ARRL has proposed to the FCC a restatement of 97.113 which is the "no business" rule. The proposal is based on 4 principles:

1. Communications for compensation will continue to be prohibited.
2. Communications for your employer also prohibited.
3. Communications where you have a monetary interest prohibited.
4. Can not use your amateur station as a substitute for other licensed services.

So what is different? Mainly the interpretation of the existing rules. You could provide assistance for non-profit groups so long as you are not employed by them. Other possibilities are:

1. You could conduct radio club business over the air.
2. You could sell or trade amateur equipment to hams if you were not in the business of selling these items.
3. You could use the auto patch to call a tow truck or make a doctors appointment so long as you are not intending to help their business in any way.
4. You could re-transmit NOAA or WWV which today is illegal.
5. You could provide support for a parade, a race, a marathon etc. so long as no profit is involved, Hams have been asking for a relaxation of the "no business" rule for years. Now it seems to be a possibility! The FCC has assigned the rulemaking number of RM-7895. It could use our support!

YOU CAN JOIN R.A.C.E.S Saturday!



Congratulations Homer, WB9OZZ on recently celebrating your 60th wedding anniversary! Some of us weren't born yet when you were married!

If you haven't yet attended one of the Franklin High School balloon launches you will have an opportunity this Saturday. The scheduled launch time is 7:30 so maybe you could see some of it before the club meeting. It is an effective use of ham radio!

Jack NT9J, and Eric KB9BGS tested their sea-legs two weekends ago by spending some time together with Ralph Talbot on the ketch that will make the trip from Spain on the Columbus Tri-Celebration, Eric, who is a landlubber and Jack, a seasoned fresh-water seaman, tested their endurance against the sea in preparation for the big trip this fall. They installed a better grounding system on the boat and tested their radio equipment, getting it ready to transmit during the crossing. Jack, as usual, took lots of purty pictures which I am sure he will display at the meeting this Saturday. Many of us are probably wishing we could be a part of this adventure, but will be content to try to make radio contact with them.

